THE STRANGE AND WONDERFUL

PREDICTIONS

OF

Mr. CHRISTOPHER LOVE,

Miniſter of the Goſpel at Laurence-Jury, London, who was beheaded on TOWER-HILL, in the Time of OLIVER CROMWEL's Government of ENGLAND; giving an Account of the Time of Babylon's fall, or the Deſtruction of Popery; and in that glorious Event, a general Reformation over all the World.

To which is added,

Two Letters from his Wife to him a little before his Death, with his Letter and Direction to her again.

GOD will be known by many in 1760, this Year will produce a great Man: In the Year 1761, Stars will wander, and the Moon turn into Blood: Aſia, Africa and America, will tremble in 1762: A great Earthquake in 1763: GOD will be known by all: Then general Reformation and Peace for ever, and War no more, happy is the Man that ſhall ſee this Day.

The LORD deſtroyed not the old World, without the Knowledge of his ſervant NOAH, neither deſtroyed Sodom, without the Knowledge of ABRAHAM.

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PREDICTIONS

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PREDICTIONS, &c.

A Few nights after he was ſentenced to be beheaded on TOWER-HILL, which was on the 22d day of Auguſt in the year 1651, which was ten days before his appointed time by the ſentence he received at the bar, being one night viſited by two intimate acquaintances, or boſom friends, as he himſelf call'd them; in their private conference they began to complain to him of the cruelty of the times, and the malice and uſage of the time ſerving brethren; to which Mr. Love anſwer'd, and think you this an evil time? No, no; this is the very time when grace and true godlineſs can be diſtinguiſhed from hypocriſy: many have followed CHRIST hitherto for the loaves, and now are turned back becauſe of the roughneſs of the way, and the ſore trial and tribulation that meet with others that are gone before them: there are many in London at this very day, who think to go to heaven in their gilded coaches, and have denied CHRIST's cauſe before men, againſt whom I am a witneſs, and CHRIST in

his never-failing word has promiſed to deny all ſuch before his FATHER and the holy angels; this is the time to diſcern between him that ſerveth GOD, and him that ſerveth him not; they formerly were my familiar acquaintances in fellowſhip and ſweet converſe; I ſent this day to have a few words of them here in the priſon, but they would not come, for their countenance is fallen, their conſciences wounded, they cannot look me in the face, becauſe I knew of their reſolution and was witneſs to their perjuration: but ah! how will they look the bleſſed JESUS in the face, in the morning of the reſurrection, what anſwer or excuſe will they have for what they have done? O fooliſh people, who think to eſcape the croſs, and come to the crown! but I tell you nay, we muſt all ſuffer perſecution who follow the lamb; we muſt be hated of all nations for CHRIST's ſake; we muſt come thro' great tribulation, thro' the fiery furnace of affliction before we can enter the land of joy and felicity: know ye not that the ſouls of thoſe that were ſlain for the teſtimony of JESUS are placed under the alter? Happy, happy are theſe men at this day, and ever ſhall be happy, who ſuffer for CHRIST's ſake in a right and charitable way, through love to his cauſe, and honeſty of heart; not through pride and hypocriſy, without the root of the matter, to have it ſaid, they died martyrs: theſe are they who will miſs their mark, and thoſe who denied the call and turned back, ſhall never have the honour to

find

find it. I am now pointed out by many, to be in a deſtitute and forlorn condition; but I would not exchange my eſtate, no, not for all the kingdoms of the world; no, not for all the glory that's on the earth; I find my redeemer's love ſtronger in my bonds than ever I did in the days of my liberty, therefore I hold living here in this world as death itſelf, I am as full of love and joy in the Holy Spirit, as ever a bottle was filled with new wine; I am ready to cry out, The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; but I will not take upon me to propheſy, nevertheleſs the Spirit of the Lord cauſeth me to utter this uſurped authority now in the hands of CROMWEL ſhall ſhortly be at an end. England ſhall be bleſſed with meek kings, and mild governments, powerful preachers, and dull hearers; good ſermons to them will be as muſick to a ſleepy man, they ſhall hear but not underſtand, nor lay the word to heart, to practiſe it in their lives, to walk by it. O England, thou ſhalt wax old in wickedneſs, thy ſins abound like Sodom, thy voluptuouſneſs ſhall cry aloud for vengeance; the Lord ſhall threaten and chaſtiſe thee, yet in mercy and love will he look upon thoſe that fear him, and call upon his name; he will ſpare and ſave them alive in the days of his anger, when the wicked ſhall be ſifted from amongſt you, as the chaff is ſifted from amongſt the wheat; for out of thee, O England, ſhall a bright ſtar ariſe, whoſe light and voice ſhall make the heathen to quake and knock under with ſubmiſ-

ſion to the goſpel of JESUS; he ſhall be as a ſon of thunder in the ears of the wicked as a lanthorn to the Jews to lead them to the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, the only ſon of GOD, and true MESSIAH, whom they ſo long miſtruſted, for the ſhort work ſpoken of by the apoſtle, which the Lord is to make upon the earth, in the latter age of the world, cannot be far off. Obſerve, my dear friends, while you live, my calculation of the dates in the books of the Revelations and Daniel, which the ſpirit of the Lord led me into, for the Lord will reveal it to ſome of his own e'er that time come; for the nearer the time is, the ſeals ſhall be taken away, and more and more ſhall be revealed to GOD's people; for the Lord doth nothing without he reveal it by his ſpirit to his ſervants the prophets: he deſtroyed not the old world without the knowledge of Noah; he did not overthrow Sodom and Gomorrah without the knowledge of Abraham: I do not mean now that any new prophets ſhall ariſe, but the Lord by his ſpirit ſhall cauſe knowledge to abound amongſt his people, whereby the old propheſies ſhall be clearly and perfectly underſtood: and I die in that thought, and really believe that my calculation on the Revelation by St. John and propheſy which St. Jerom copied off, and tranſlated out of the Hebrew language, as it is written on Seth's pillar in Damaſcus, which pillar is ſaid to have ſtood ſince before the flood, and was built by Seth, Adam's ſon, and written by Enoch the prophet; as likewiſe

the holy precepts whereby the patriarchs walked before the law was given to Moſes, which was alſo engraven on the ſaid pillar, whereof many Jews have copies in their own language, written on parchment, and engraven on braſs and copper, but the alteration of the date makes them to ſtagger at it, not knowing that the dates were to be altered by the birth of CHRIST. Firſt, this propheſy is intituled, *A ſhort work of the Lord's in the latter age of the world*; great *earthquakes* and *commotions* by ſea and land ſhall come in the year of GOD 1756; great *wars* in Italy, 1757; the *deſtruction* of popery, or Babylon's fall, in the year 1758; the *anger* of GOD againſt the wicked in the year 1759; God will be *known* by many, in the year 1760; this will produce a *great man*: the ſtars will *wander*, and the moon *turn as* blood in 1761; Africa, Aſia, and America will tremble in 1762; a great *earthquake* over the whole world in 1763; GOD will be univerſally *known* by all; then general *reformation* and *peace* for ever, when the people ſhall learn war no more; happy is the man that liveth to ſee this day.

The first LETTER of Mrs. LOVE's to her Husband.

Sweet heart,

BEfore I write further, I beſeech you to think not that it is your wife that now writeth to you: I hope thou haſt freely given up thy wife and children to the Lord GOD, that ſaid, Jer. 49. 11. *Leave thy fatherleſs children, I will preſerve them alive, and let thy widows truſt in me.* O that the Lord would keep thee from having one troubled thought about thy relations. I deſire to give thee freely up into the Father's hands, and not only look upon it as a crown of glory for thee to die for CHRIST, but as an honour to me, that I ſhould have a huſband to leave for CHRIST. I dare not ſpeak to thee, nor have a thought within myſelf of my unſpeakable loſs, but wholly keep my eye fixed upon thy unſpeakable and inconceivable gain. Thou leaveſt but a ſinful mortal wife, to be everlaſtingly married to the king of glory; thou leaveſt but children, and brethren, and ſiſters, to go to the Lord JESUS, thy elder brother; thou leaveſt friends to go to the *enjoyment of holy angels, and to the ſpirits of juſt men made perfect*; thou doſt but leave earth for heaven, and if natural affections begin to riſe, I hope that ſpirit of grace that is within thee,

thee, will quell them, and knowing that all things here below are but dung and droſs in compariſon of theſe things above: I know thou keepeſt thy eye fixed upon the hope of glory, which makes thee to trample upon the loſs of earth.

My dear, I know that GOD hath not only prepared glory for thee, and thee for it, but I am perſwaded he will ſweeten the way for thee to come to the enjoyment of it: and when thou art putting on thy cloaths that morning, think thou art putting on thy wedding-cloaths, to go to be married to thy redeemer: when the meſſenger of death cometh to thee, let him not be dreadful, but look upon him as the meſſenger that bringeth thee tidings of eternal life: when thou goeſt up to the ſcaffold, think what thou told'ſt me, it was but thy chariot to draw thee to thy Father's houſe, and when thou layeſt down thy dear head to receive thy father's ſtroke, remember what thou ſaid'ſt to me, that tho' thy head were ſever'd from the body, yet thy ſoul ſhould ſoon be united to JESUS CHRIST, thy head, in heaven: and tho' it may ſeem bitter, that by the hands of men we are parted a little ſooner than otherwiſe we would have been, yet let us conſider, it is the decree and will of the father, and beſides, we could not have liv'd much longer together, and it will not be long e're we ſhall enjoy one another again in heaven. O! let us comfort one another with theſe ſayings, O be comforted,

it is but a little ſtroke, e're thou ſhalt be *where the weary are at reſt, and where the wicked ſhall ceaſe from troubling thee.* O! remember tho' thou eat thy dinner with bitter herbs, yet thou ſhalt have a joyful ſupper with JESUS CHRIST at night: And, my dear, by what I write to thee I do not undertake to be a teacher of thee; for this comfort I have receiv'd from the Lord by thee. I hear a warrant is come to the lieutenant, I am ready to think it may be concerning thee, to ſend thee to thy journeys end to-morrow, and that becauſe they may poſſibly be hindred, if they ſtay till the day appointed; but I am perſuaded, thou art ſo far from being afraid of it, that thou doſt long for the day which, next under GOD, to hear of thy willingneſs to die, will be the greateſt comfort in the world. I can write no more, but commit thee to the hands of that GOD, with whom thou and I, e'er long ſhall be. Farewell, farewell, July 11th 1651.

Mrs. LOVE.

P. S. One comfort I would have thee to carry to thy grave, if ever God did good to my ſoul, thou waſt the chief inſtrument of it, for I never looked after GOD, till I ſaw thy face.

A ſecond

A ſecond LETTER of Mrs. LOVE's to her Huſband.

My heavenly dear.

I Call thee ſo, becauſe GOD hath put heaven into thee, before he hath taken thee to heaven; thou now beholdeſt GOD, and CHRIST, and glory, as in a glaſs, but to-morrow heaven's gates ſhall be opened, and thou ſhalt be in the full enjoyment of all that glory which *eye hath not ſeen, nor the ear heard, nor the heart of man can conceive*; GOD hath now ſwallowed up thy thoughts with the joys of heaven, but e'er long thou ſhalt be fully ſwallowed up in the enjoyment of heaven. O no marvel there ſhould be ſuch a quietneſs and calmneſs in thy ſpirit, whilſt thou art falling into this tempeſtuous ſtorm, becauſe thou perceiveſt by the eye of faith a haven of reſt, where thou ſhalt be with CHRIST the glory of heaven, O lift up thy head with joy, when thou layeſt it upon the block, in the thoughts of this, that thou art laying thy head to reſt in thy SAVIOUR's boſom, which when thou ſhalt awake thou ſhalt be crowned, not with an earthly crown that fadeth away, but with a heavenly crown of glory. O be not diſcouraged, when thou ſhalt ſee a guard of ſoldiers triumphing with their trumpets about thee; but lift up thy head and thou ſhalt behold GOD

with a guard of angels, his holy angels, triumphing for to receive thee into glory. Oh! be not diſcouraged, at the ſcoffs and reproaches thou mayeſt meet with in thy ſhort way to heaven; for be aſſured, that GOD will not only glorify thy ſoul and body in heaven, but he will as ſure make thy memory glorious upon earth. Oh! let not one troubled thought for thy wife and babes ariſe within thee, thy GOD will be our GOD and portion, he will be a huſband to thy widow, and a father to thy children; the grace of thy GOD will be ſufficient for us. Now, My dear, I deſire willingly and chearfully to reſign up my right of thee to my Father, and thy Father, who hath the greateſt part and intereſt in thee. Though men have ſeparated us for a time, yet our merciful GOD will bring us together again, where we ſhall eternally enjoy one another, never to ſeperate more; and let me hear how GOD bears up thy heart, and let me taſte of the comforts that ſupport thee, that they may be as pillars of marble to bear up my heart. I can write no more.

Farewell, farewell, My dear, till we ſhall meet where we ſhall bid farewell no more; till which time I leave thee in the hands of a tender-hearted Father, and do the beſt till I ſhall reſt with thee in heaven.

Mrs. LOVE.

A LETTER from Mr. CHRISTOPHER LOVE to his wife, in anſwer to two letters he had received from her.

My moſt gracious beloved;

I'M now going from a priſon to a palace. I have finiſhed my work, I'm now to receive my wages; I'm going to heaven, where are two of my children, and leaving you on earth, where there are three of my babes: theſe two above need not my care, but the three below need yours; it comforts me to think two of my children are in the boſom of Abraham, and three of them will be in the arms and care of ſo tender and godly a mother, I know you are a woman of a ſorrowful ſpirit, yet be comforted; tho' your ſorrow be great for your huſband's going out of the world, yet your pains ſhall be the leſs in bringing your child into the world; you ſhall be a joyful mother, tho' you be a ſad widow; GOD hath many mercies in ſtore for you: the prayers of a dying huſband for you will not be loſt: to my ſhame I ſpeak it, I never prayed for you at liberty, as I have done in priſon. I cannot write much, but I have a few practical counſels to leave with you, viz.

Firſt, Keep under a ſound, orthodox, ſoul-ſearching miniſtry. Oh! there are many deceivers gone out into the world; but CHRIST's

ſheep

ſheep *know his voice, and a ſtranger they will not follow.* Attend any miniſter that teacheth the way of GOD in truth, and follow Solomon's advice, Prov. 19. 27.

Secondly, Bring up your children in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. The mother ought to be a teacher in the father's abſence. Prov. 31. 1. *The words that his mother taught him:* and Timothy was inſtructed by his grandmother, 2 Tim. 1. 5.

Thirdly, Pray in your family daily, that yours may be in the number of the families who do call upon GOD.

Fourthly, Labour for a meek and quiet ſpirit, which in the ſight of GOD is of great price, 1 Peter 3. 4.

Fifthly, Pore not on the comforts you want, but upon the mercies you have; look rather at GOD's end in afflicting, than at the meaſure and degree of your affliction.

Sixthly, Labour to clear up your evidence for heaven, when GOD takes from you the comforts of earth, that ſo *as your ſufferings do abound, your conſolation in Chriſt may abound much more,* 2 Cor. 1. 5.

Tho' it be good to maintain a holy jealouſy of the deceitfulneſs of the heart, yet it is ill for you to cheriſh fears and doubts touching the truth of your graces: if ever I had confidence touching the grace of another, I have confidence of grace in you, as Peter ſaid to *Silvanus, I am perſuaded that this is the grace of God wherein ye ſtand,* 1 Pet. 5. 12.

Seventhly,

Seventhly, Oh, my dear ſoul! Wherefore doſt thou doubt, whoſe heart has been upright, whoſe walking has been holy? &c. I could venture my ſoul this day in thy ſoul's ſtead, ſuch a confidence have I in you.

Eighthly, When you find your heart ſecure, preſumptuous and proud, then pore upon corruption more than grace; but when you find your heart doubting and unbelieving, then look upon your graces, without your infirmities.

Ninthly, Study the covenant of grace, and merits of CHRIST, and be troubled if you can; you are intereſted in ſuch a covenant that accepts purpoſes for performances, deſires for deeds, ſincerity for perfection, the righteouſneſs of another, viz. that of JESUS CHRIST, as it were our own alone. Oh, my love! reſt thou love of GOD, in the boſom of CHRIST.

Tenthly, Swallow up your will in the will of GOD; it is a bitter cup we are to drink, but it is the cup our Father hath put into our hands; when Paul was to ſuffer at Jeruſalem, the chriſtians could ſay, *The will of the Lord be done*. Oh! ſay ye ſo, when I go to TOWER-HILL, The will of the Lord be done.

Eleventhly, Rejoice in my joy. To mourn for me inordinately, argues, that either you envy or ſuſpect my happineſs. The joy of the Lord is my ſtrength: Oh let it be yours alſo. Dear wife, farewell, I call thee wife no more, I ſhall ſee thy face no more, yet I am not much troubled; for now I am going to meet the bridegroom the Lord JESUS, to whom I ſhall be eternally married.

Twelfthly,

Twelfthly, Refuſe not to marry, when God offers you a fair opportunity, but be ſure you marry in the Lord, and one in a good diſpoſition, that he may not grieve you, and one of a comfortable lively-hood in the world.

Farewell, dear love, and again I ſay, farewell; the Lord JESUS be with your ſpirit, the maker of heaven and earth be a huſband to you, and the father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST be a father to your children. So prays

Your dying,

Yet moſt affectionate
Friend till death,

CHRISTOPHER LOVE.

From the TOWER of London,
Auguſt 22d, 1651,
The day of my glorification.

FINIS.